

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04666 111416Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SAA-01 /078 W
-----045367 121735Z /66

R 111329Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9200
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 4666

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, LE, UN, MARR, SY, PEPR
SUBJECT: NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

1. DEPUTY ALBERT MANSOUR, A LEADING MEMBER OF THE
LEFTIST NATIONAL MOVEMENT, TOLD DCM AND EMBOFF THE
FOLLOWING AUGUST 11.

2. THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT GENERALLY VIEWED THE
AUGUST 9 DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT IN EAST BEIRUT AS
POSITIVE, ALTHOUGH THE FULL MEANING WAS STILL
UNCLEAR AND THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WAS RESERVING
FINAL JUDGMENT. THE AGREEMENT, IF IT HELD, WOULD ALLOW
MANY INNOCENT CIVILIANS TO RETURN TO BEIRUT AND WOULD
FACILITATE A RESUMPTION OF DOMESTIC TRADE AND TRAFFIC.
MANSOUR WAS AT A LOSS TO EXPLAIN WHY THE MURABITOUN
HAD CRITICIZED THE AGREEMENT IN A STATEMENT CARRIED
BY MOST NEWSPAPERS THE MORNING OF AUGUST 11.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04666 111416Z

3. IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT BE FOLLOWED BY THE FORMATION OF A POLITICAL
CABINET AND BY A SERIOUS EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT SOME SORT
OF A NATIONAL ENTENTE. MANSOUR WAS, HOWEVER,
DOUBTFUL THAT THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE AGREEMENT WOULD
HOLD AND WAS SUSPICIOUS OF THE MOTIVES OF THE
SYRIANS FOR AGREING TO IT. (MANSOUR IS VERY

HOSTILE TO THE SYRIAN PRESENCE.) AS ONEROUS AS THE SYRIAN PRESENCE WAS, WITHOUT IT THERE WOULD BE RENEWED CIVIL WAR IN THE ABSENCE OF NATIONAL ENTENTE, MANSOUR SAID.

3. MANSOUR THOUGHT THAT SYRIAN EFFORTS TO EFFECT A RAPPROACHEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT WOULD AMOUNT TO LITTLE. THE TWO SIDES HAD AGREED TO TOLERATE EACH OTHER FOR TACTICAL REASONS FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THE BASIC ANTIPATHY ON BOTH SIDES MADE IMPOSSIBLE ANY REAL ALLIANCE.

4. MANSOUR PREDICTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BE HEAVILY CRITICIZED IF THE LEBANESE ARMY BATTALION DID NOT GET TO KAWKABA. (HE BELIEVE IT NEVER WOULD.) HE SAID THE EPISODE HAD DEMONSTRATED: (A) THE ABSOLUTE LACK OF PREPARATION ON THE PART OF THE GOL, AND (B) THE GOL'S FOLLY IN INSISTING OVER THE PAST MONTHS THAT THE SITUATIONS IN BEIRUT AND SOUTH LEBANON WERE CONNECTED. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT EACH COULD BE DEALT WITH SEPARATELY, BUT NOW THE GOL WOULD BE FORCED TO PAY THE PRICE OF ITS OWN SHORTSIGHTEDNESS.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT04666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780330-0754
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780871/aaaacgzd.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c1c98264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1760479
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATIONAL MOVEMENT'S VIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, MARR, PEPR, LE, SY, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1c98264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014